



The Gospel is the Grace of God...

The Gospel We Guard Is the Gospel That Saves

1 Timothy 1:12-20

We are moving ... From False Teachers to a Faithful Testimony

In verse 12. Instead of simply continuing to talk about false teachers, he talks about *himself*... and *his testimony of Grace*.

I. GRACE SAVES THE UNDESERVING

1 Timothy 1:12-14

Paul's first response to remembering his salvation is **thanksgiving**. Why? Because Paul knew he hadn't earned it. He was saved because Jesus came looking for him.

A Grace doesn't begin with our goodness.

Verse 13 says Paul was:

• a blasphemer • a persecutor • a violent man

He understood the seriousness of his sin.

As Paul matured spiritually he became more sensitive to sin... not less.

59 AD – 1 Cor. 15:9 *"I am the least of the apostles."*

64 AD – Eph 3:8 *"less than the least of all God's people."*

65 AD – verse 15 *"I am the worst sinner in the world"...*
I am the chief... at the very top of the list of the worst.

Paul had dedicated his life to arresting, imprisoning and killing Christians. In Acts 9 he was on his way to Damascus to do it again. That's when... That man... **met that Savior**.

B Grace doesn't ignore our sin—it overcomes our sin.

Paul doesn't excuse what he did. He calls it what it was. But his sin was not greater than God's grace.

Verse 14: *"The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly..."* (was exceedingly abundant" KJV / Overflowed" (ESV).

God didn't give Paul a little grace. He gave him **abundant grace**. A **waterfall of grace**. More than enough!!

Maybe someone thinks: "God could never forgive what I've done." I have hated God. I have turned against God. I have fought God and fought His truth."

Paul says: *"Look at me*. If God's grace could save Saul of Tarsus, God's grace is sufficient for your sin."

II. GRACE SAVES US THROUGH CHRIST

1 Timothy 1:15-16

One of the clearest statements of the Gospel:

"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."



Grace Has a Name... Jesus

Grace came to us in the person of Jesus Christ.

Grace is necessary because we are sinners.

Paul never got over his awareness of his own sinfulness.

Since Jesus came looking for sinners, Paul said "I was too big a sinner to miss or ignore".

The smaller we make sin, the smaller grace becomes.

But when we understand the holiness of God and the seriousness of sin, we begin to understand just how amazing grace really is.

C Grace is sufficient for the worst sinner.

Verse 16: *"But for that very reason I was shown mercy..."*

Why was Paul shown mercy?

So that his salvation would become an example of Christ's unlimited patience.

Paul's testimony says: Nobody is beyond the reach of God's grace.

"Look what grace has done!" That's Paul's testimony.

III. GRACE CHANGES THE LIFE IT SAVES

The man who once persecuted Christians became the man who preached Christ.

The man who once attacked the church became the man who helped establish churches.

The man who once hated the name of Jesus became the man who said: *"For to me, to live is Christ..."*

Verse 12 says Christ appointed Paul to His service. That's the word *diakonia* in the Greek. Paul was now a servant... **serving the saving** grace of God to other sinners.

The same grace that saved Paul also **sent Paul**. Grace doesn't merely rescue us from **something**. Grace calls us to **something**. We are saved to serve Christ.

IV. GRACE PRODUCES HUMILITY AND WORSHIP

1 Timothy 1:17

Paul is overwhelmed with God's grace to him and he immediately breaks into praise:

"Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Paul doesn't say: "Look how wonderful I am."

He says: *"Look how wonderful God is!"*

Grace kills boasting.

The song of heaven will be:

"Worthy is the Lamb!!!"

Not worthy is me.

V. GRACE CALLS US TO GUARD AND PASS ON THE GOSPEL

1 Timothy 1:18-19

Now Paul comes full circle to where we started in the first 11 verses. He tells Timothy: *"I give you this command..."*

"fight the good fight."

Why does this belong in a sermon about grace?

Because Timothy has been **entrusted with the Gospel of grace**.

The Gospel isn't ours to change.

False teachers were corrupting the truth.

We don't add human works to grace.

We don't replace Scripture with human opinions.

We don't substitute religious tradition for the Gospel.

Paul received the Gospel and faithfully passed it to Timothy.

Now Timothy was responsible to guard it and pass it on.

That's discipleship.



Parents and grandparents:

Don't merely leave your children a house, money, possessions, or memories. Give them the Gospel.

VI. REJECTING GRACE LEADS TO SPIRITUAL SHIPWRECK

1 Timothy 1:19-20

Paul closes with a warning:

"Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith."

When people reject the truth of the Gospel, there are consequences.

We don't tamper with the message that saves sinners.



Never get over grace!!

The Gospel is not about **how good** we are.

The Gospel is about **how gracious God is**.

We are **saved by grace**.

We **stand by grace**.

We **serve by grace**.

And one day, by **grace**, we will stand in His presence **forever**.

GRACE • CHANGES • SAVES • SENDS